

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 2739

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By Mr. LeDuc of Marlborough, petition of Stephen P. LeDuc that the Department of Public Health be directed to provide for an annual assessment on the impact of the public welfare system on children in the Commonwealth. Public Health.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

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AN ACT TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF THE PUBLIC WELFARE SYSTEM ON THE  
HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 The Department of Public Health, in conjunction with other  
2 child and family-serving agencies, shall conduct an annual child  
3 assessment as part of a child surveillance study on the impact of  
4 the public welfare system on the health and well-being of the chil-  
5 dren and youth (birth through age 18) of the Commonwealth. Said  
6 child health assessment shall include but not be limited to: the  
7 measure and assessment of nutritional status (through height and  
8 weight measurements); birth outcomes status (especially birth-  
9 weights); poverty status; school readiness status and safety status  
10 (including injury prevalence rates and hospitalization rates) of  
11 children and youth in the Commonwealth. Said annual child  
12 health assessment statement shall be submitted to the House and  
13 Senate Ways and Means Committees, the Human Services Com-  
14 mittee, the Health Care Committee, the Educational Committee,  
15 and the Massachusetts Legislative Children's Caucus April 1, of  
16 each year.